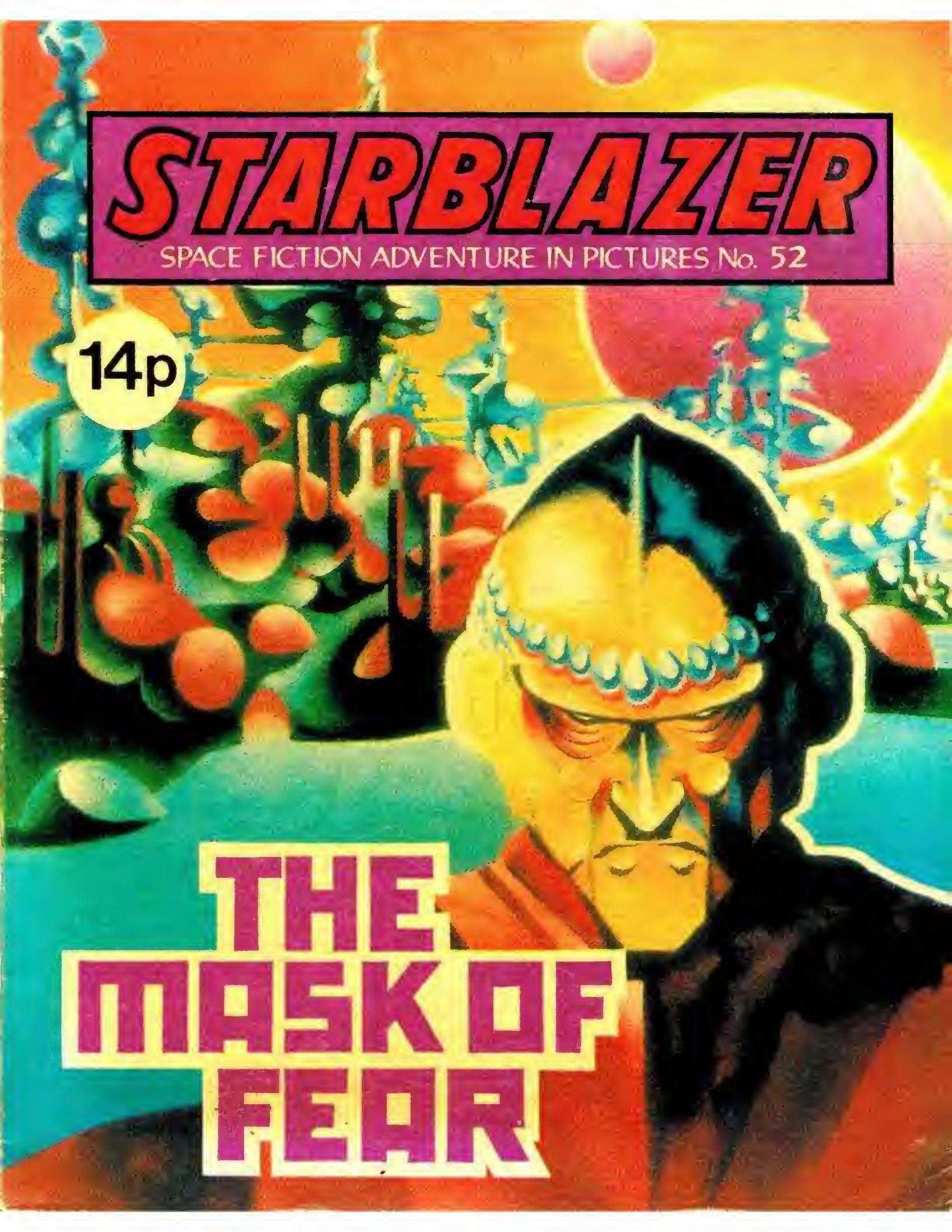


# STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 52

14p

## THE MASK OF FEAR





# STARBLAZER

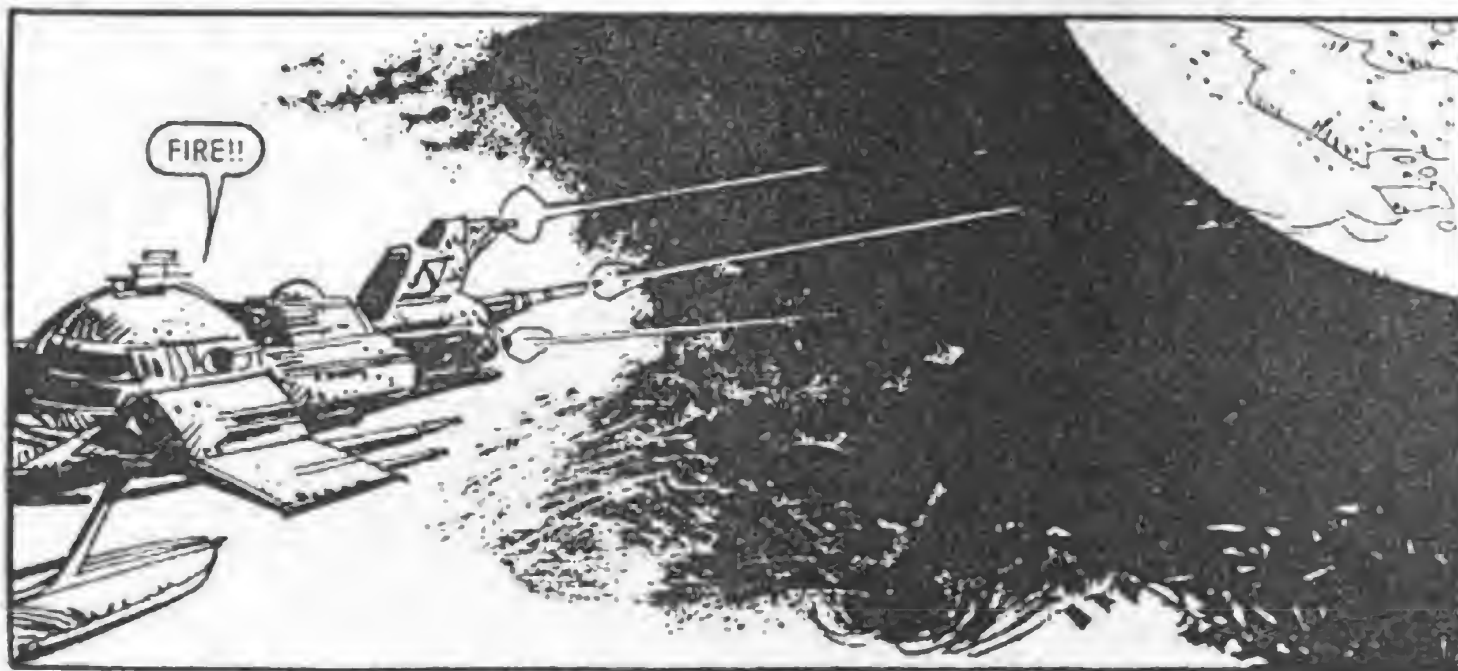
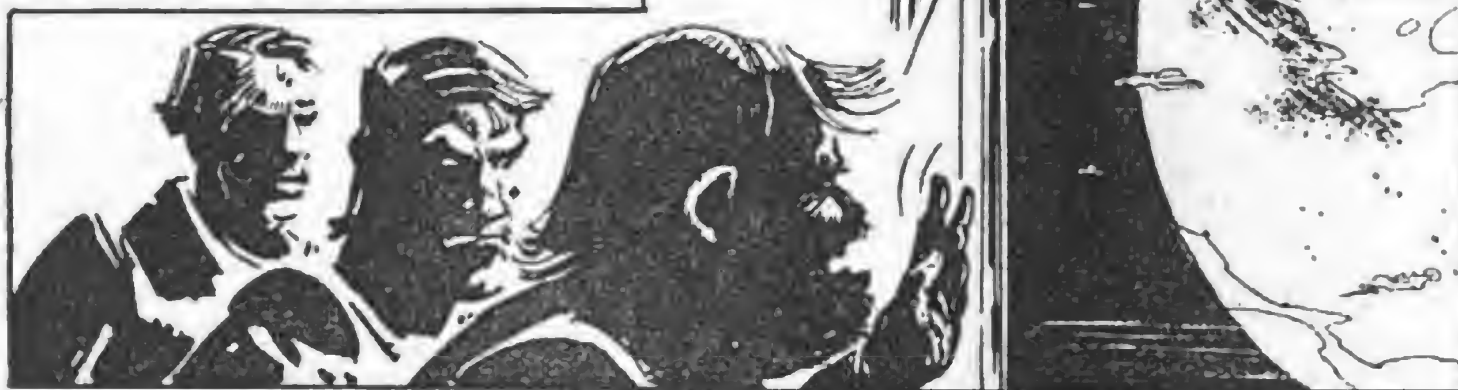


BY 3000 A.D. MAN HAD SPREAD OUT AND  
COLONISED WORLDS AMONG THE STARS  
WITH MEN, WENT CRIME. WEALTH AND  
POSITION WERE HIGHLY PRIZED, AND LIFE  
WAS CHEAP. DESPERATE MEN WOULD  
DO DESPERATE THINGS TO ACHIEVE WEALTH  
AND POSITION—EVEN DESTROY ENTIRE  
WORLDS.

# *The* MASK OF FEAR

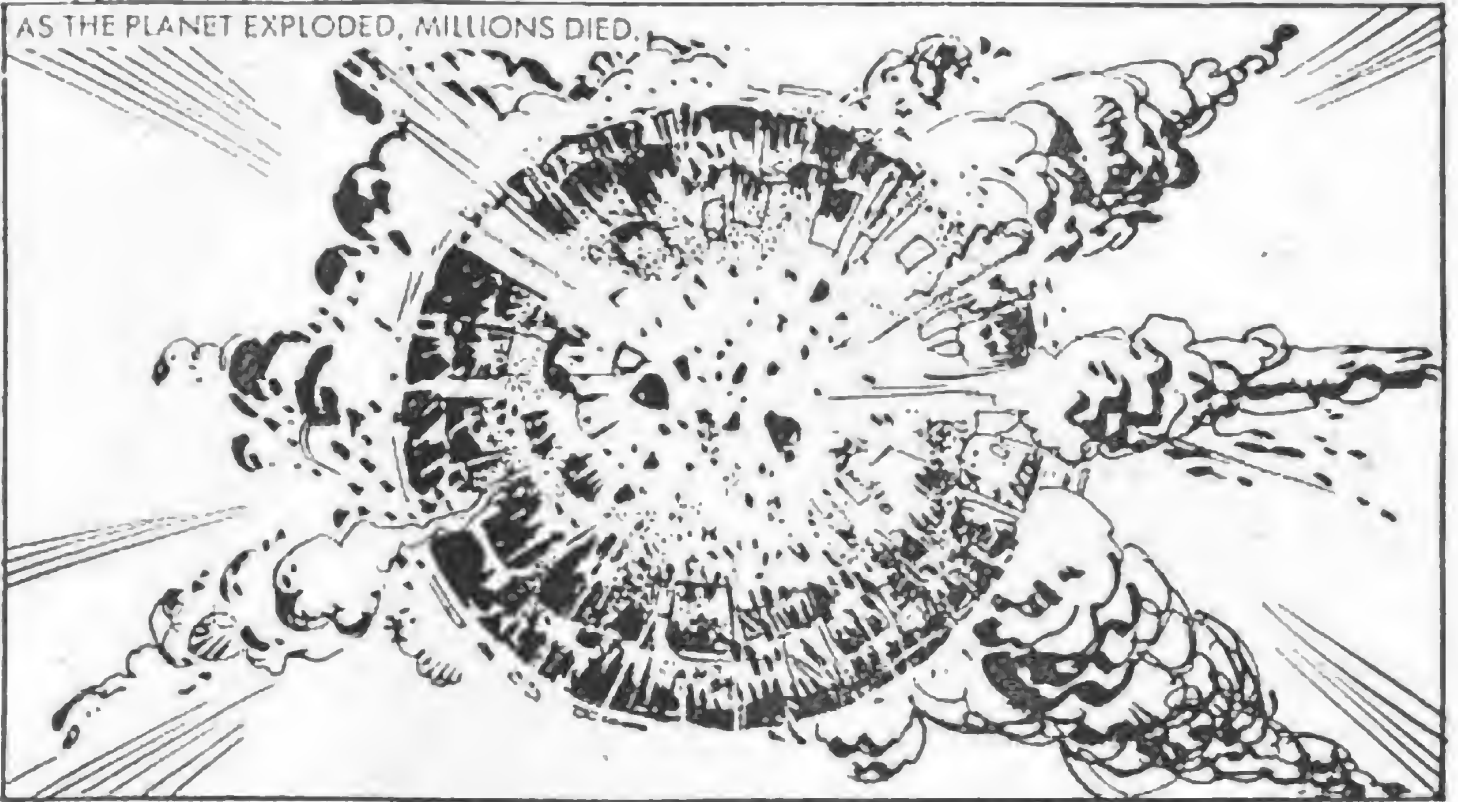


A SLEEK PRIVATE GUNSHIP APPROACHED THE  
PLANET DELTAN IN THE ORIONUS OMEGA NEBULA.



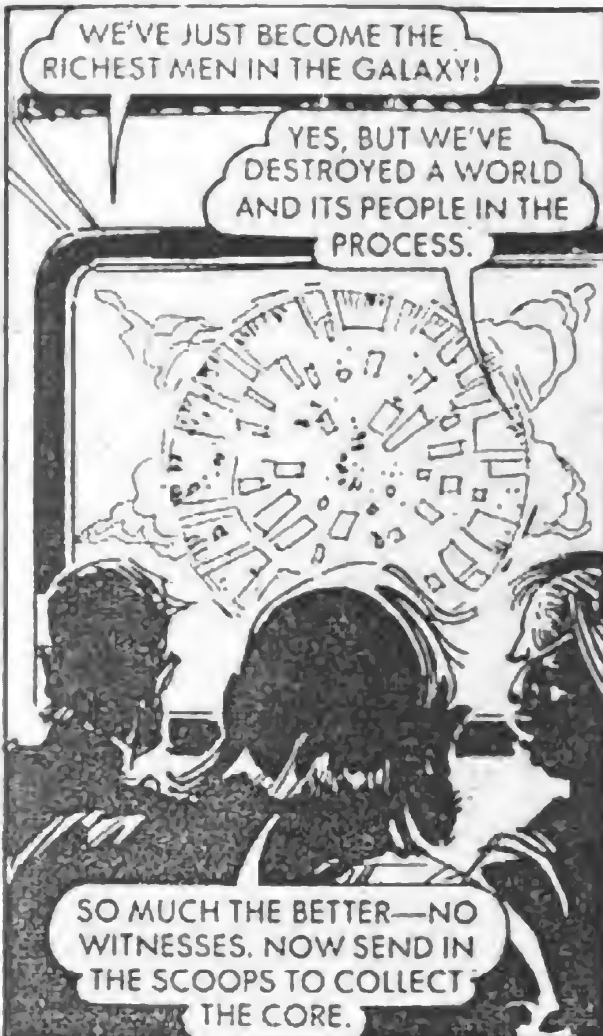


AS THE PLANET EXPLODED, MILLIONS DIED.



WE'VE JUST BECOME THE RICHEST MEN IN THE GALAXY!

YES, BUT WE'VE DESTROYED A WORLD AND ITS PEOPLE IN THE PROCESS.



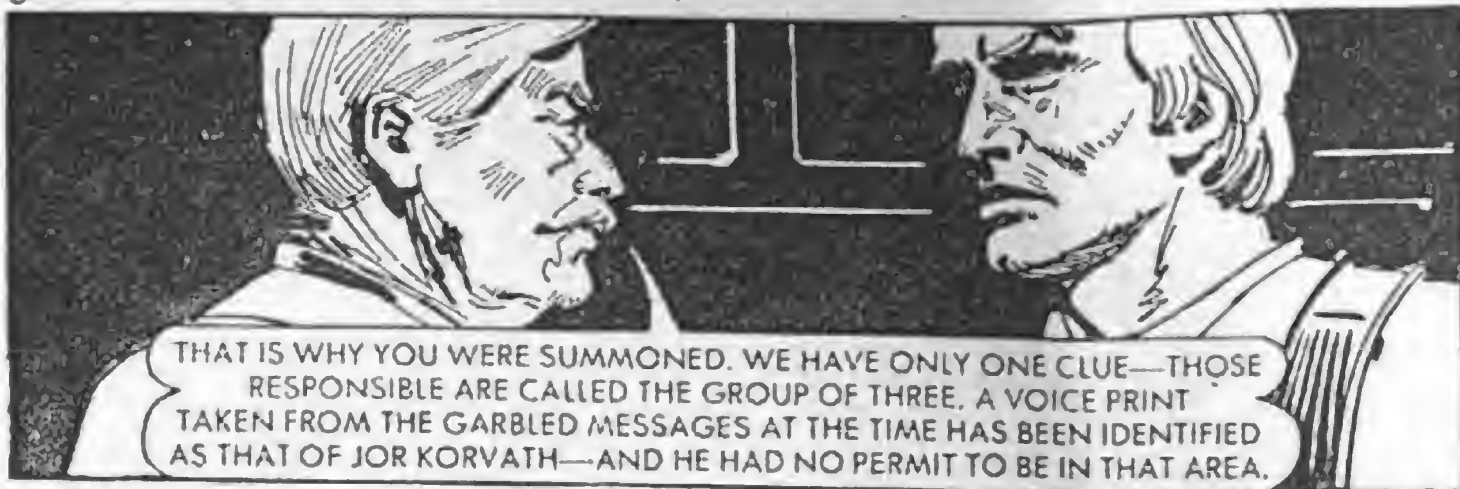
SO MUCH THE BETTER—NO WITNESSES. NOW SEND IN THE SCOOPS TO COLLECT THE CORE.

THE NEWS OF THE DELTAN DISASTER REACHED THE EARTH HQ OF THE GALACTIC SECURITY SERVICE.

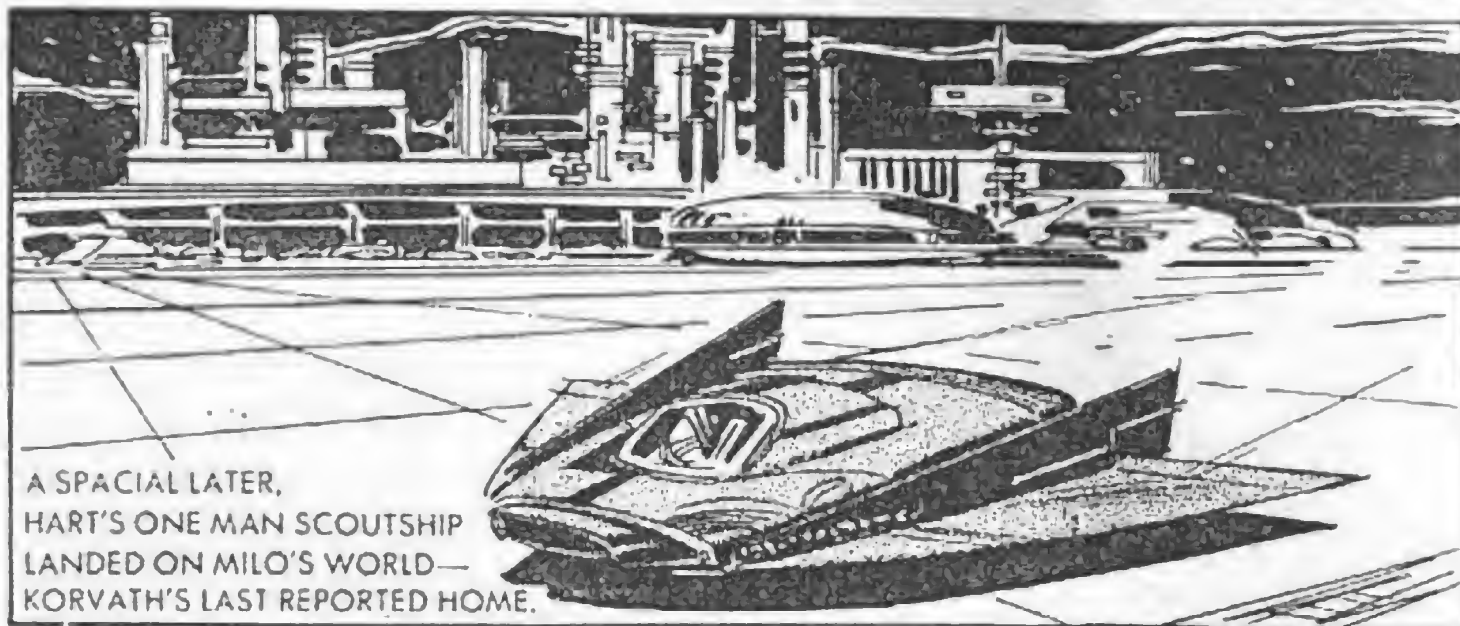
HART TALLIS—I'M SORRY I HAD TO BE THE ONE TO TELL YOU ABOUT DELTAN. I KNOW ALL YOUR FAMILY WERE THERE.

LET ME TRACK DOWN THE CRIMINALS.





THAT IS WHY YOU WERE SUMMONED. WE HAVE ONLY ONE CLUE—THOSE RESPONSIBLE ARE CALLED THE GROUP OF THREE. A VOICE PRINT TAKEN FROM THE GARBLED MESSAGES AT THE TIME HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THAT OF JOR KORVATH—AND HE HAD NO PERMIT TO BE IN THAT AREA.



A SPACIAL LATER,  
HART'S ONE MAN SCOUTSHIP  
LANDED ON MILO'S WORLD—  
KORVATH'S LAST REPORTED HOME.



INFORMATION WAS HARD TO COME BY ON MILO'S WORLD—

I'M SORRY SIR, BUT WE'VE NO  
INFORMATION HERE ON CITIZEN  
KORVATH.





I DO NOT WISH TO  
BE SILENCED.

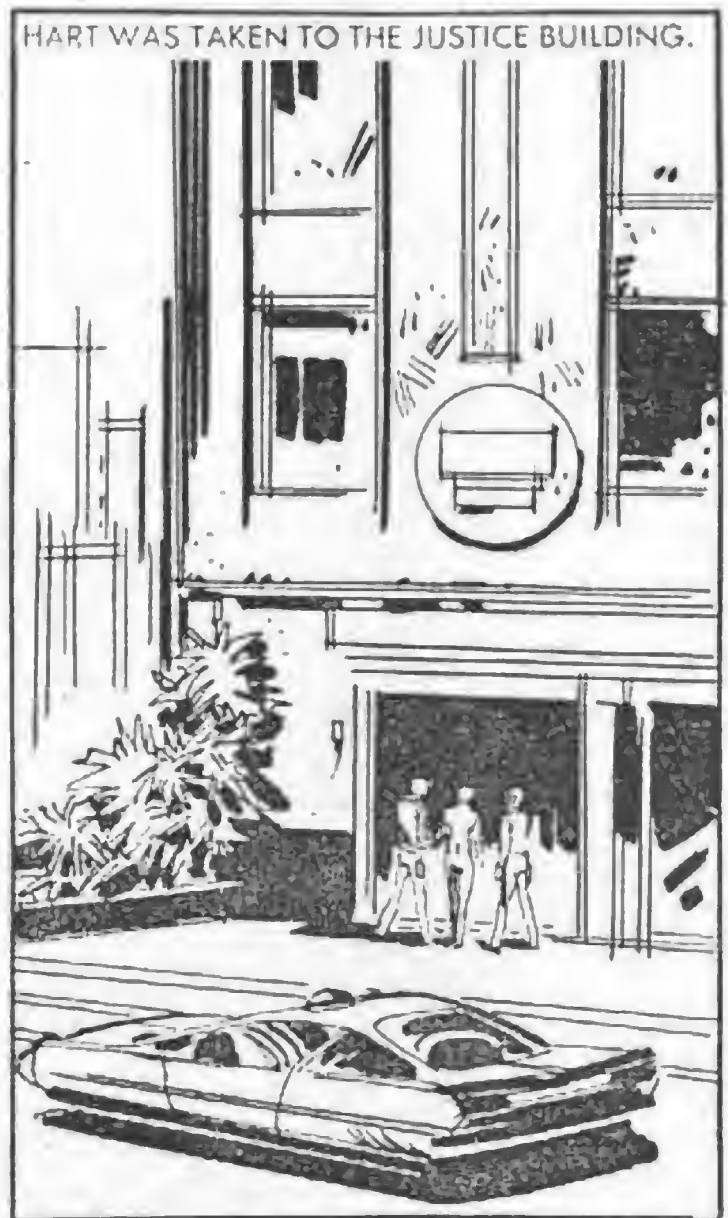


AS HART CAME FROM DELTAN, A WORLD  
WITH A GRAVITY THREE TIMES GREATER  
THAN EARTH, HE WAS MUCH STRONGER  
THAN MOST OTHER MEN.



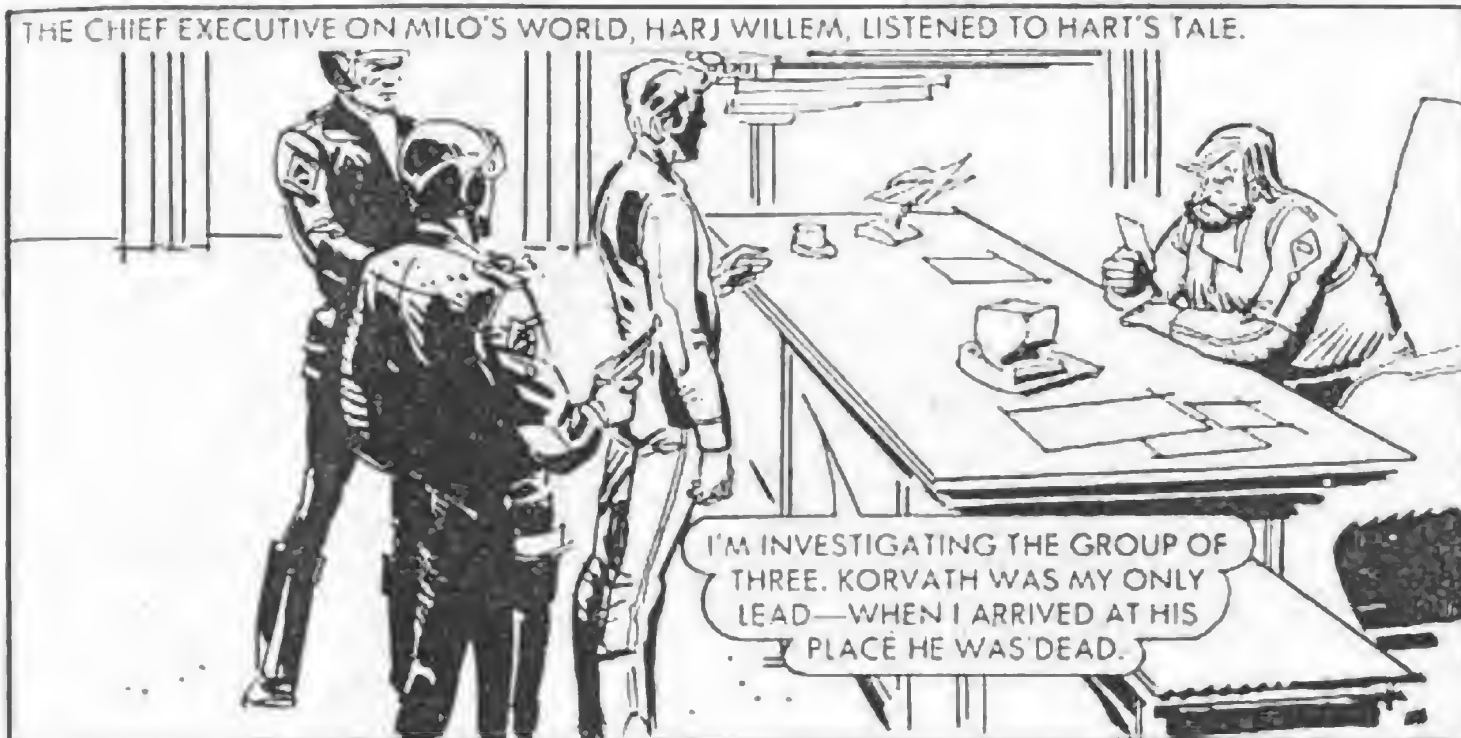








THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON MILO'S WORLD, HARJ WILLEM, LISTENED TO HART'S TALE.



I'M INVESTIGATING THE GROUP OF THREE. KORVATH WAS MY ONLY LEAD—WHEN I ARRIVED AT HIS PLACE HE WAS DEAD.



KORVATH IS NOT DEAD, IN FACT HE'S SPEAKING TO YOU. WHAT YOU SAW WAS AN ANDROID IN MY LIKENESS . . . THE WHOLE THING WAS A SET UP TO TRAP SNOOPERS. I WILL NOW EXECUTE YOU FOR MY MURDER.



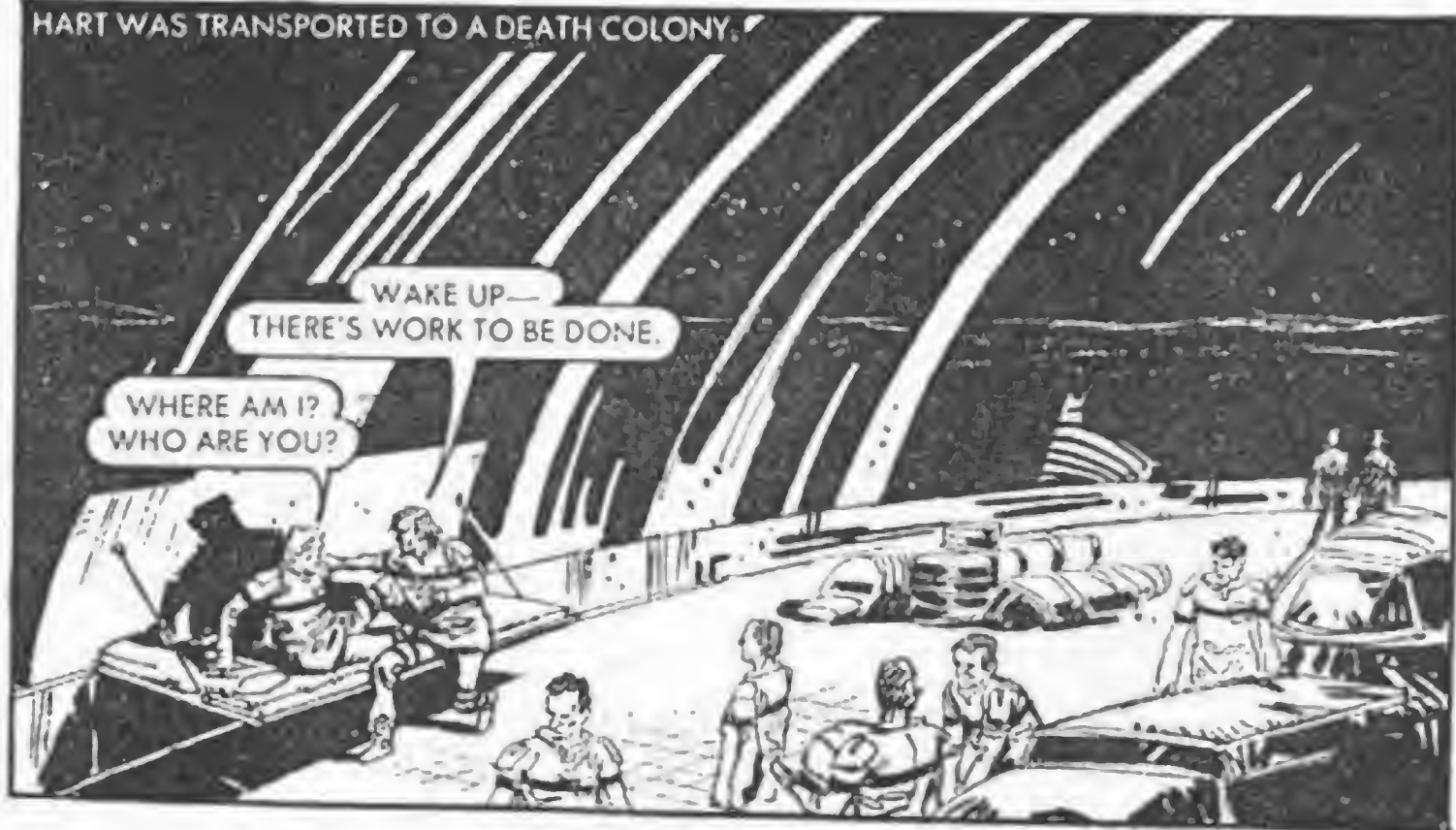
JUST LIKE YOU MURDERED MY FAMILY.



DELTAN PROVED A VERY SUCCESSFUL VENTURE.



HART WAS TRANSPORTED TO A DEATH COLONY.















I WAS PLANETARY ADMINISTRATOR OF THIS PRISON UNTIL KORVATH TOOK OVER MILO'S WORLD. FROM HERE THERE IS NO ESCAPE.



DON'T TOUCH THAT! IT'S A KRAI. OUR SUITS AREN'T SHIELDED PROPERLY SO THE URANIUM ORE'S DANGEROUS ENOUGH, BUT THAT'S DEADLY.

WHAT'S A KRAI?





AT THE END OF THE DAY'S LABOUR—

IT'LL BE A MONTH BEFORE  
WE SEE THAT SHIP AGAIN!

AND WITH LUCK, WE'LL THEN  
BE LEAVING ON IT.

YOU'VE A PLAN?

YES—CARE TO TRY IT?

HART EXPLAINED HIS PLAN —AND WORK STARTED IMMEDIATELY.

REMEMBER, KEEP  
THEM SEPARATE!



A MONTH LATER, THEY HAD ENOUGH KRAI.

NOW, WHAT DO WE DO?

WE PUT HALF AT EACH END OF AN  
OLD AIR CYLINDER, SEPARATED BY  
A VACUUM, WITH A CHARGE AT  
EITHER END TO BLOW THE U-235  
TOGETHER.



BY THE TIME THE AIR REPLENISHING CRAFT WAS DUE, THE BOMB WAS COMPLETE.

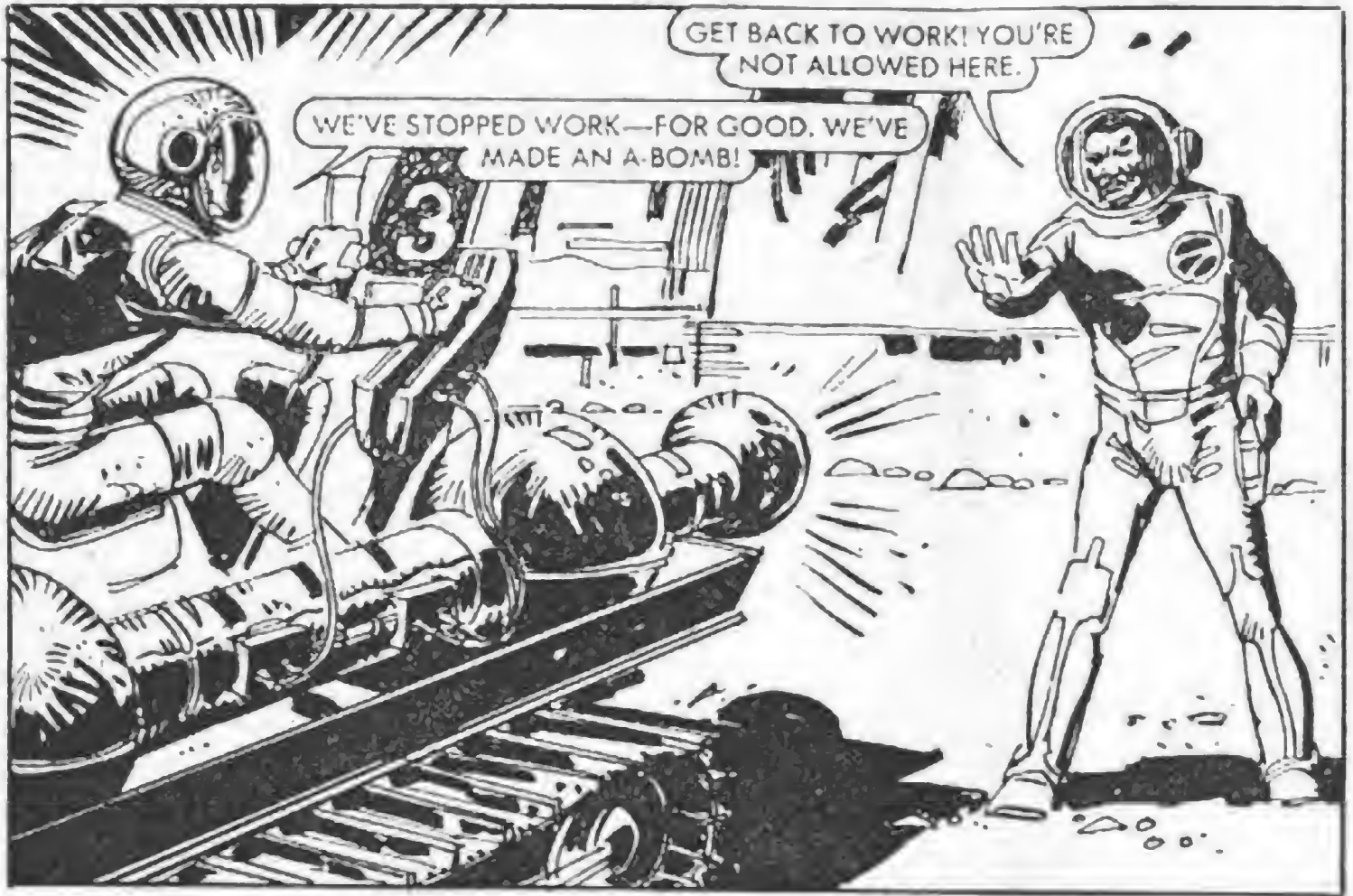
SO THAT'S IT!

YES, A CRUDE BUT WORKABLE A-BOMB.  
NOW WE HAVE TO MAKE USE OF IT.

RIGHT ON TIME THE CRAFT ARRIVED.

THAT'S IT! ACTION STATIONS.





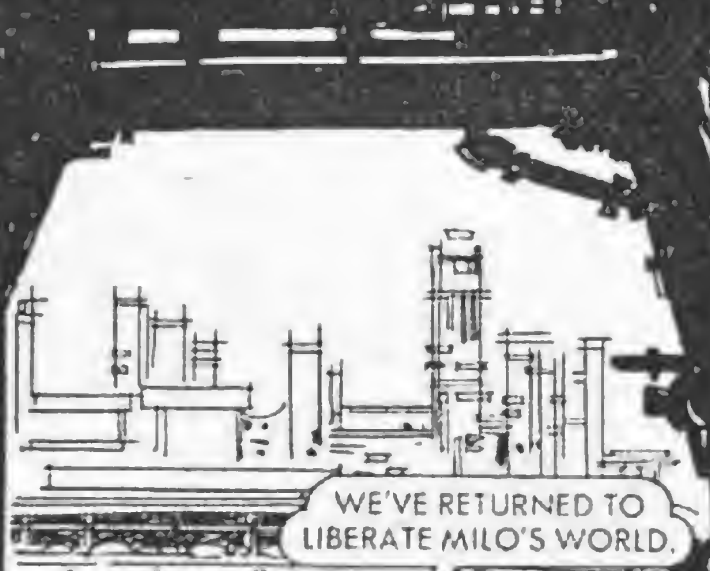
THE PRISONERS BLASTED OFF IN THE CAPTURED SHIP...

THAT'S THE END OF THAT NIGHTMARE.



... JUST AS THE CRUDE A-BOMB WENT OFF.

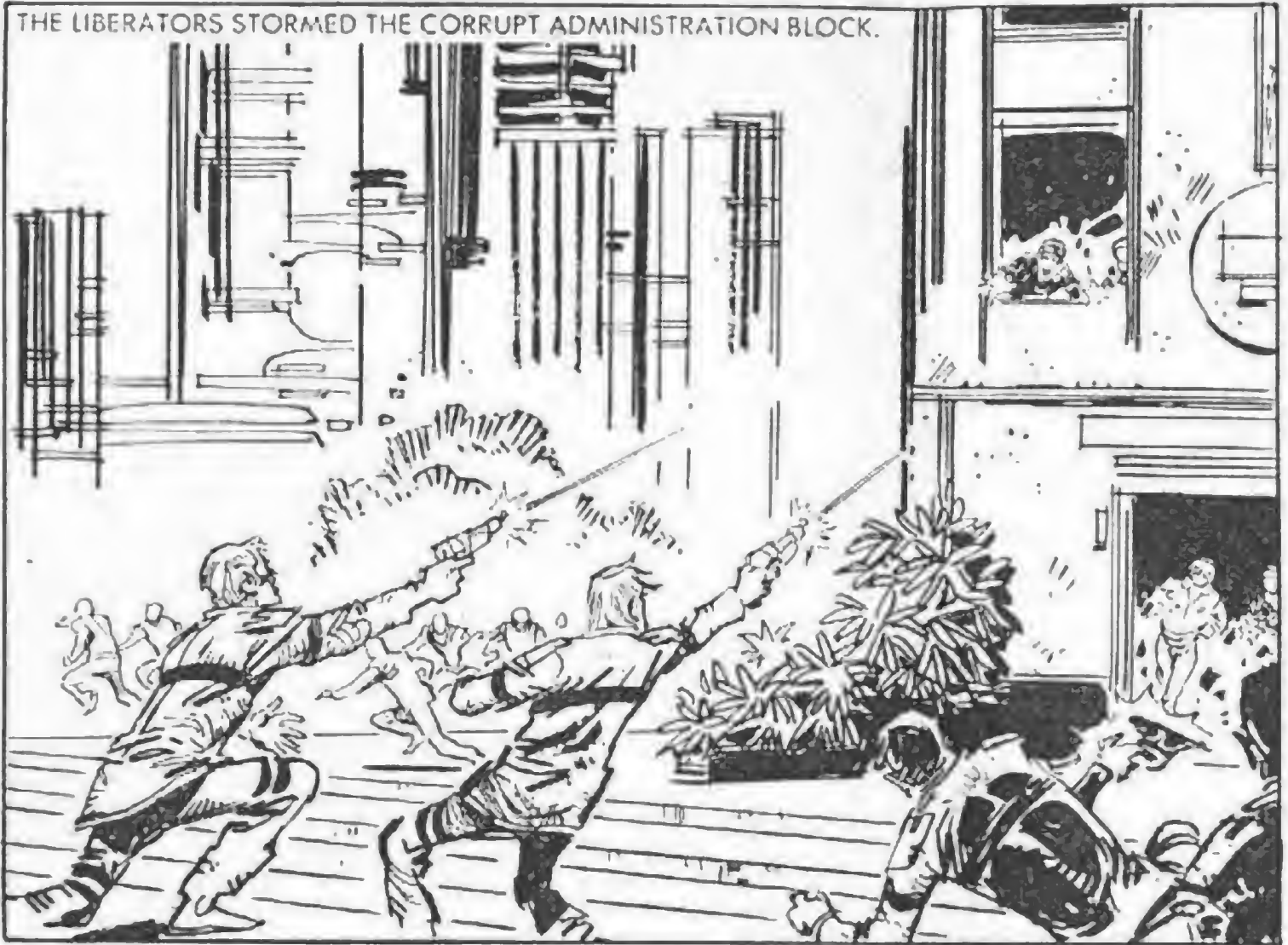
THE CRAFT LANDED ON MILO'S WORLD—



WE'VE RETURNED TO LIBERATE MILO'S WORLD.



THE LIBERATORS STORMED THE CORRUPT ADMINISTRATION BLOCK.





USING ALL HIS STRENGTH, HART BURST  
THROUGH A FORCE BARRIER.

IT'S OVER, KORVATH.  
CALL YOUR MEN OFF.



I GIVE UP. DON'T SHOOT!





YOUR EVIL REIGN HAS ENDED ... BUT  
HOW DO I FIND THE OTHERS NOW.



I'M ... DYING ... WHY  
SHOULD THEY ... ESCAPE?  
THEY ARE JASE MARGEREN,  
ON BETA KORDOMAI  
AND ...



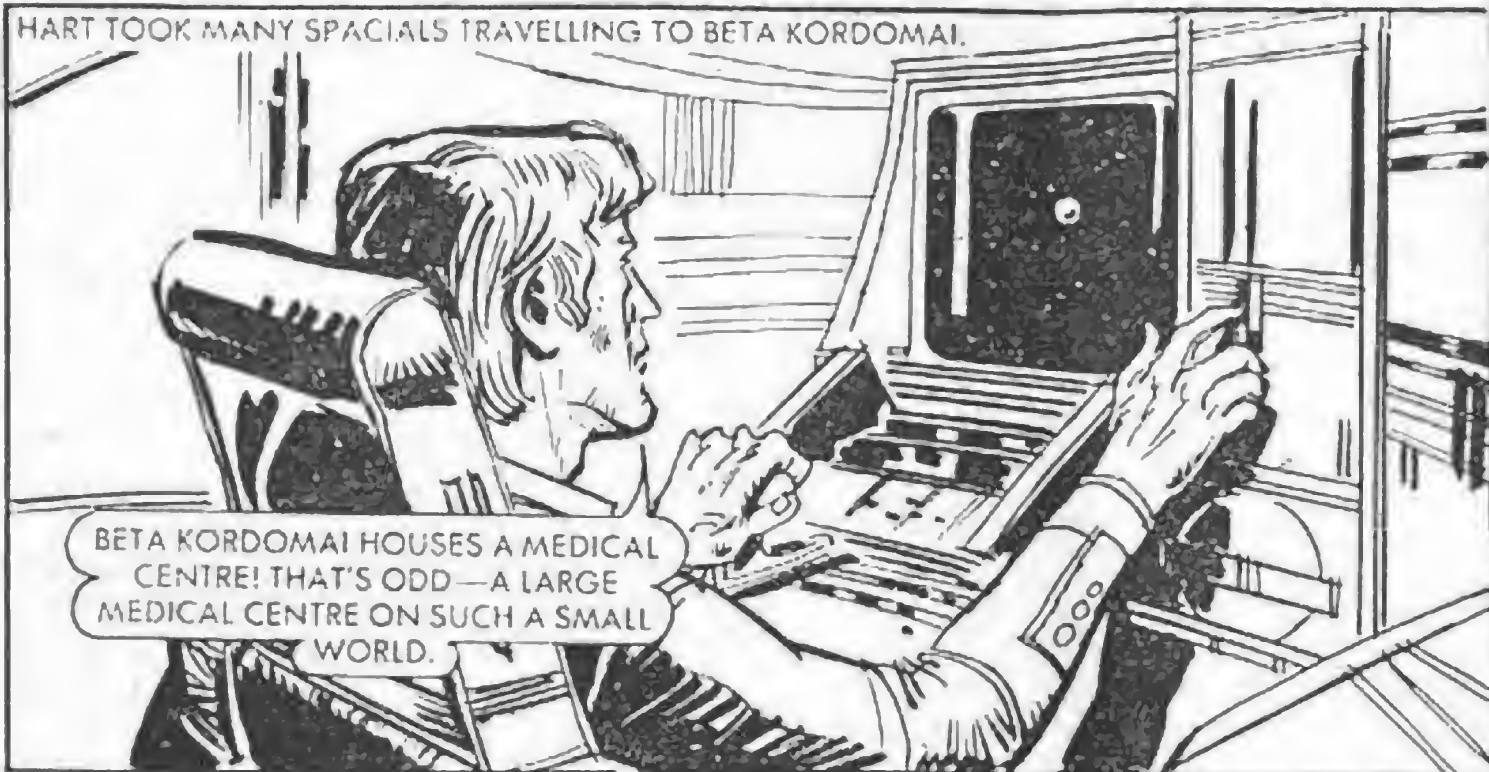
SO HE'S DEAD. DID  
HE TELL YOU WHAT  
YOU WANTED?



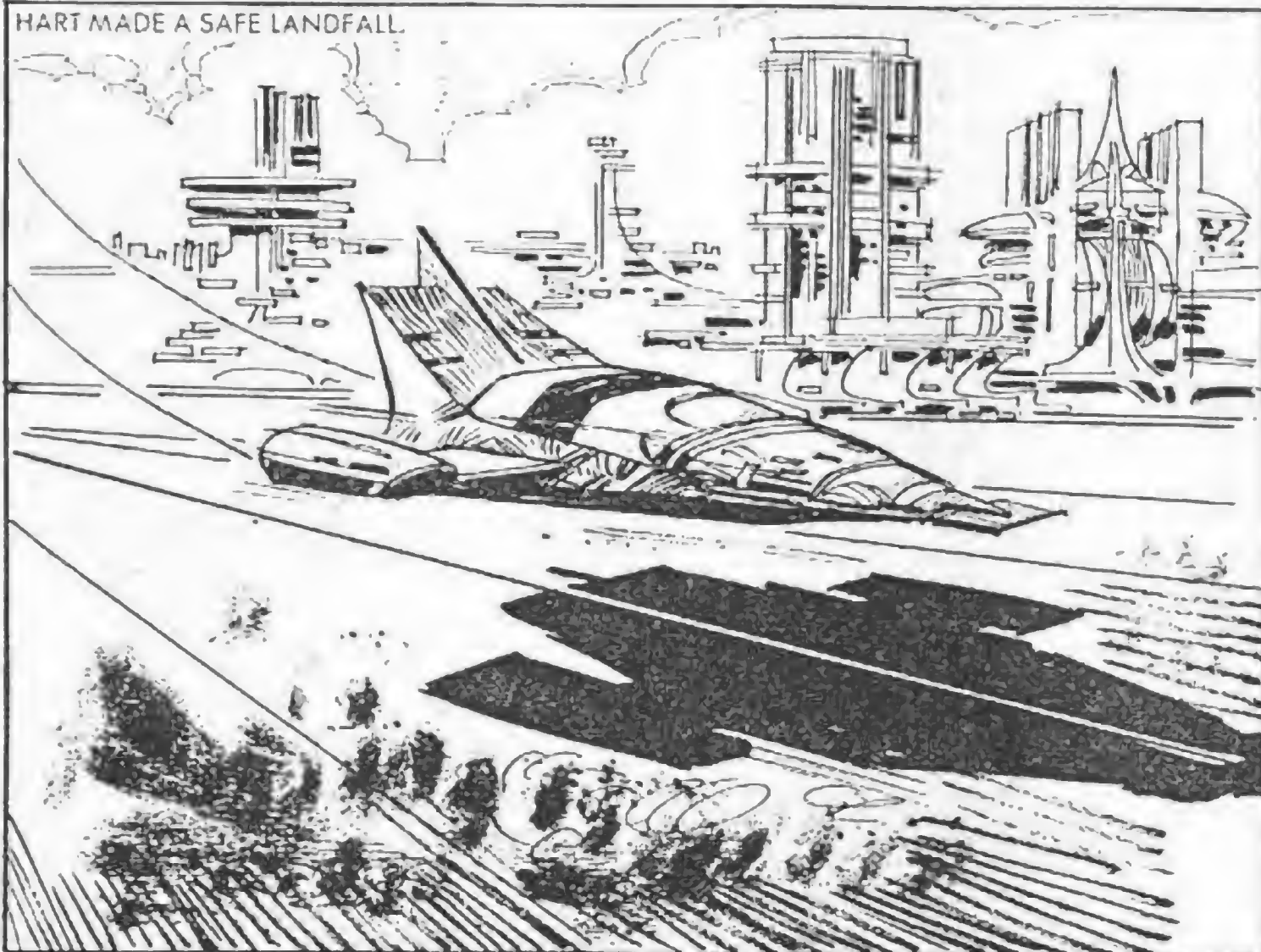
MAYBE! MILO'S WORLD  
IS FREE AGAIN. KEEP IT THAT WAY!



HART TOOK MANY SPACIALS TRAVELLING TO BETA KORDOMAI.



HART MADE A SAFE LANDFALL.



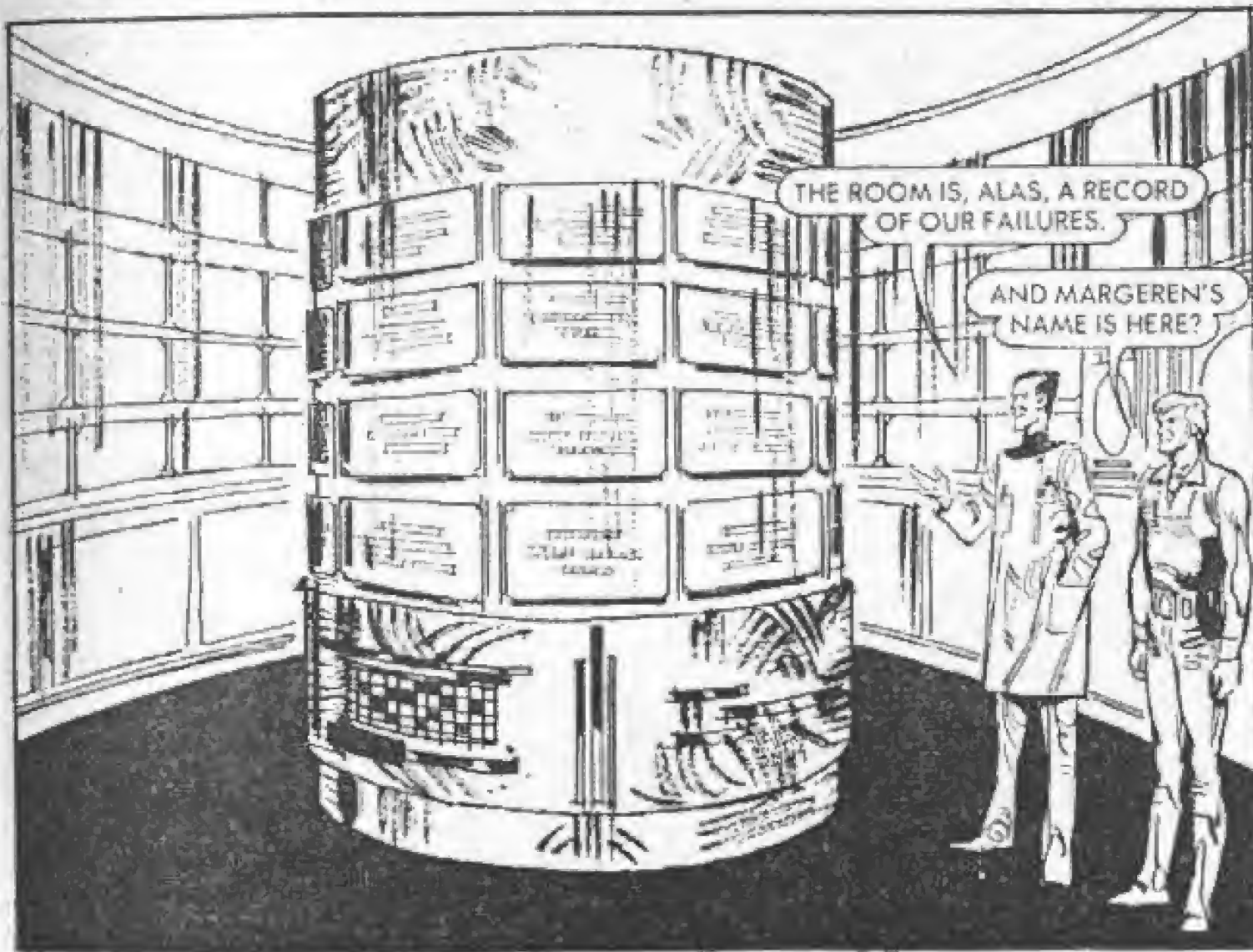


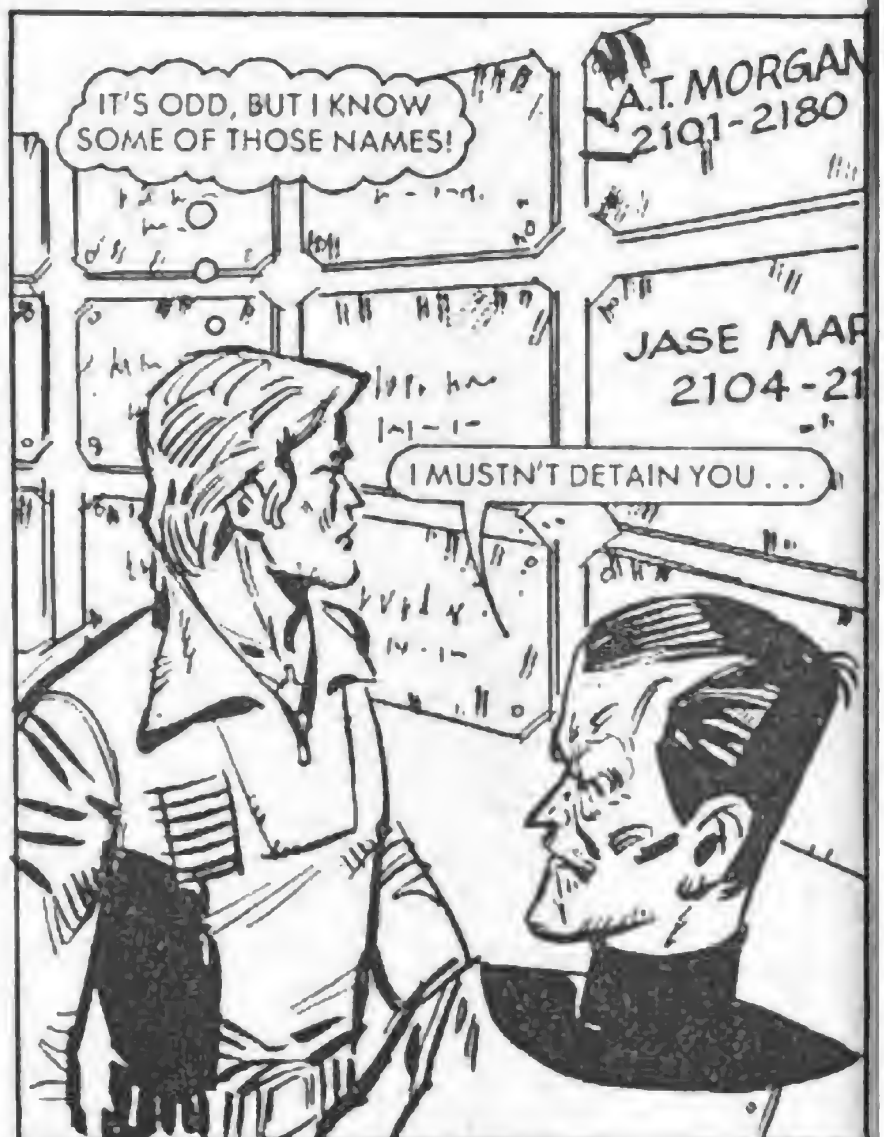
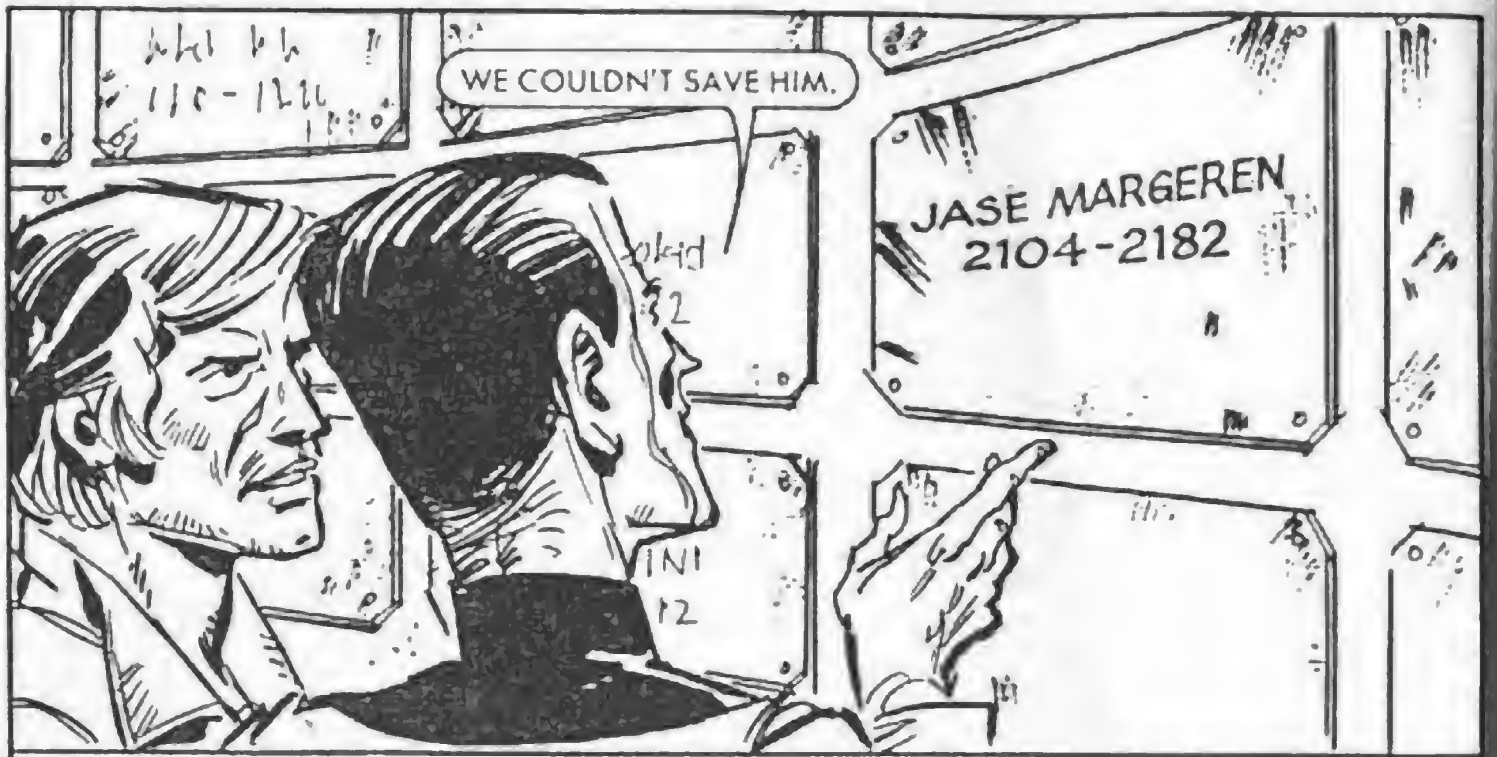


DR. EUTOME, THE DIRECTOR, ARRIVED.









HART BOARDED A CITIHOVER —

ALPHA CENTAURI HILTON, PLEASE.

THERE'S SOMETHING ODD ABOUT  
THAT PLACE, BUT WHAT?

ALONE IN HIS HOTEL ROOM, HART THOUGHT  
HARD.

THAT'S IT . . . THOSE NAMES WERE SOME OF THE  
RICHEST FAMILIES IN THE GALAXY! NOW WHY  
SHOULD THEY HAVE COME TO THIS BACKWATER?



HART USED HIS SKILLS TO ENTER THE MEDICAL CENTRE UNDETECTED.

I MUST HAVE ANOTHER LOOK AT THAT ROOM.

IN THE HALL OF PLAQUES . . .

MARGEREN, MORGAN, NIVEN —  
ALL MULTIGALAXY TYCOONS.  
WHY DID THEY ALL DIE ON  
THIS PLANET?

WAT. MORGAN  
2101-2180

JASE MARGEREN  
2104-2182


DARIUS P. NIVEN  
2090-2177

BUT HART'S ARRIVAL HADN'T PASSED UNNOTICED.



YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

I'M AGENT TALLIS OF THE GALACTIC SECURITY SERVICE. DR. EUTOME WILL VOUCH FOR ME.



INDEED I CAN! I CAN VOUCH THAT YOU KNOW TOO MUCH! A PITY. OR PERHAPS NOT. YOU MIGHT PROVE OF USE. AT LEAST, YOUR BODY MIGHT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



I THINK YOU'VE GUESSED WHAT  
WE'RE DOING? TRANSPLANT  
SURGERY—IMMORTALITY!



YOU TRANSPLANT THE  
BRAINS OF OLD, RICH MEN  
INTO THE BODIES OF  
YOUNG MEN. THAT GIVES  
THE OLD BRAIN A KIND  
OF IMMORTALITY!

YOU'RE CLEVER, TALLIS. A PITY WE ONLY  
REQUIRE YOUR BODY. BUT WE SHALL MAKE  
A PROFIT OUT OF YOU. WE CHARGE A  
BILLION CREDITS FOR NEW BODY.









FINALLY THE GUARDS ARRIVED TO TAKE HIM AWAY.



IN THE THEATRE -

WHILE THERE'S LIFE,  
THERE'S HOPE!



GIVE HIM A TRANQUILLISER.  
WE DON'T WANT HIM STRUGGLING.





BUT IT'S  
GOING TO HURT YOU.



HART GRASPED THE SURGEON'S WINDPIPE —



— AND HURLED HIM ACROSS THE ROOM.



THIS DONOR ISN'T IN  
A GIVING MOOD, DOCTOR!









HART ACTIVATED THE SCREEN.





WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

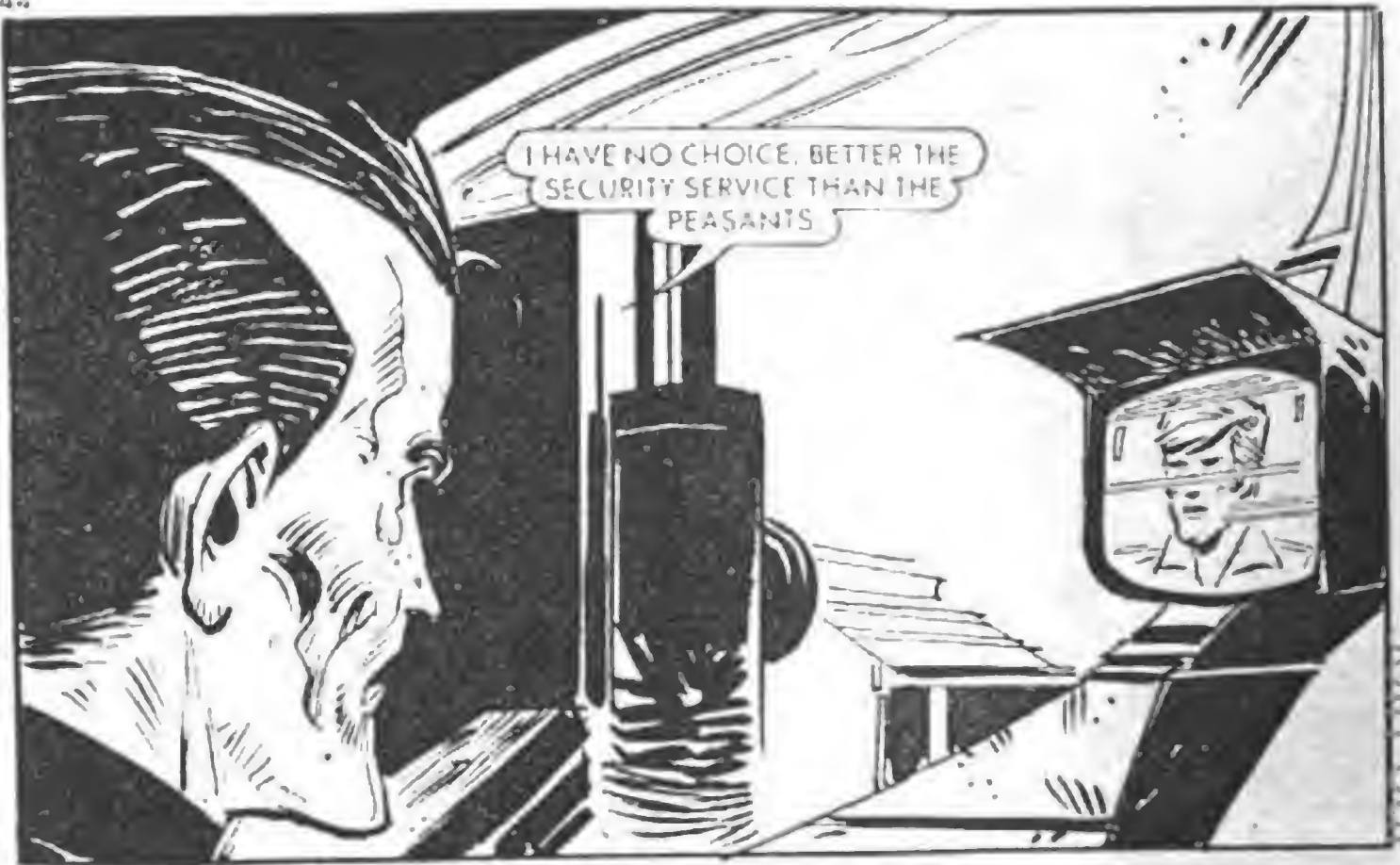
I'M GOING TO BROADCAST TO THE PEOPLE OF BETA KORDOMAI AND TELL THEM ABOUT YOUR SCHEMES.



YOU CAN'T DO THAT!  
THEY'D KILL US!

I'LL GIVE YOU A CHOICE.  
YOU CAN SURRENDER TO  
THE GALACTIC SECURITY  
SERVICE. I HAVE ALREADY  
SENT CODED DETAILS OF  
YOUR MEDICAL CENTRE. IF  
YOU DON'T I WILL TELL THE  
PEOPLE OF BETA KORDOMAI.



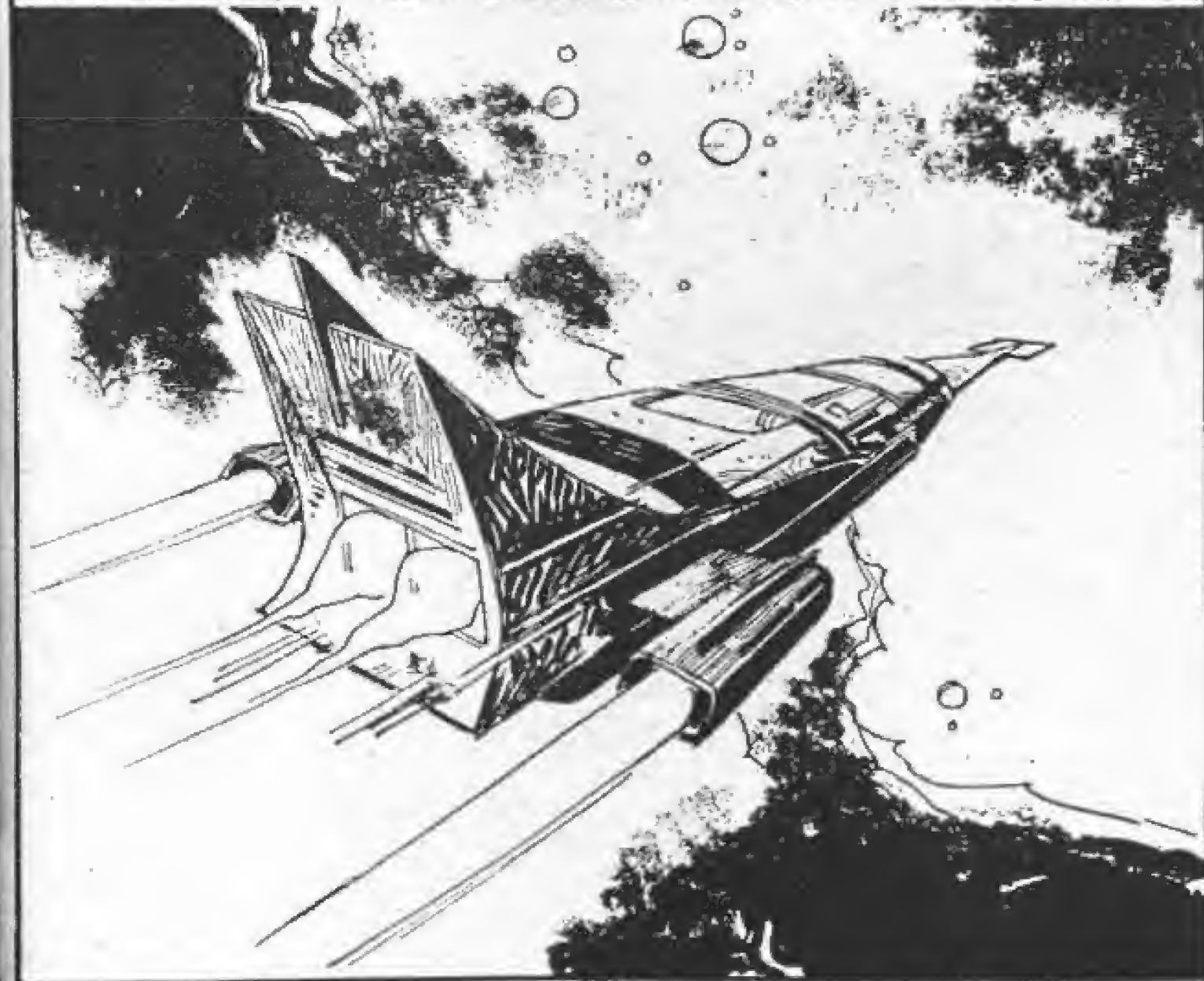


THE SECURITY SERVICE ARRIVED MANY SPACIALS LATER, AND HART FINALLY MET THE NEW MARGEREN.





BACK IN DEEP SPACE, HART'S COMPUTER SCANNED THE DATA BANKS FOR DETAILS OF THE MASK.



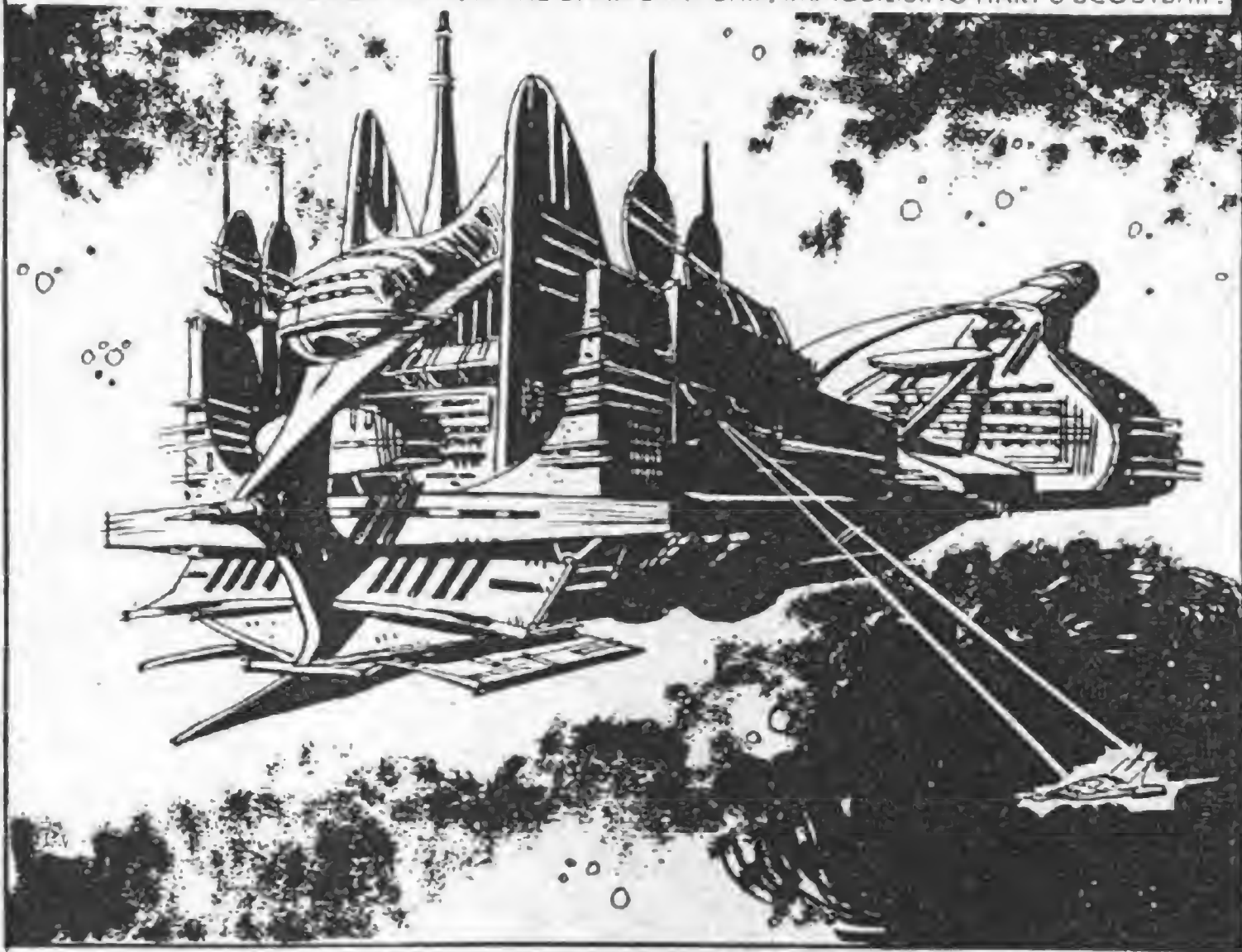


SUDDENLY —





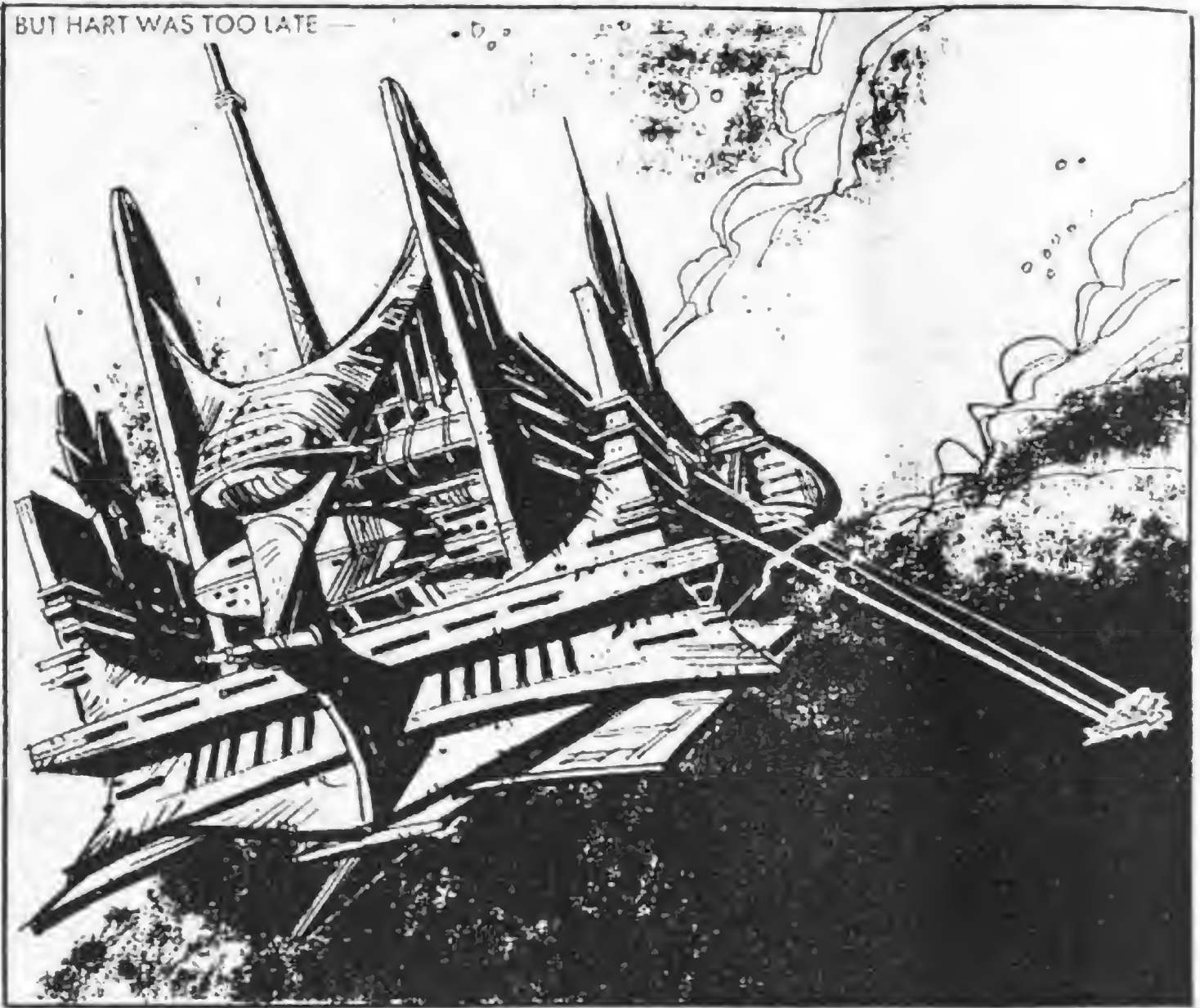
TRACTOR BEAMS ISSUED FORTH FROM THE UNKNOWN SHIP, IMMOBILISING HART'S SCOUTSHIP.



THOSE TRACTOR BEAMS HAVE ME  
CAUGHT. IF I CAN JUST GET SOME  
POWER, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO BREAK  
FREE!



BUT HART WAS TOO LATE —



AN IMMOBILISER BEAM ... PAIN ...



WHEN HART WOKE IT WAS ON A NEW WORLD.

MY NAME IS ORTO.  
CAN I HELP YOU?



WHERE AM I?



ON THE ENCLOSED WORLD  
RULED BY THE MASK.

SO THE MASK  
DOES EXIST!





HART TURNED —



HART SET OFF FOR THE CRYSTAL CITY.



HE SOON FOUND OUT—

HALT OR DIE!

I'M A VISITOR HERE.  
I MEAN NO HARM.

YOU FAILED TO STOP—IT'S DEATH  
FOR YOU.





IN THE MASK'S THRONE ROOM—

TALLIS—  
YOU ARE A NUISANCE.

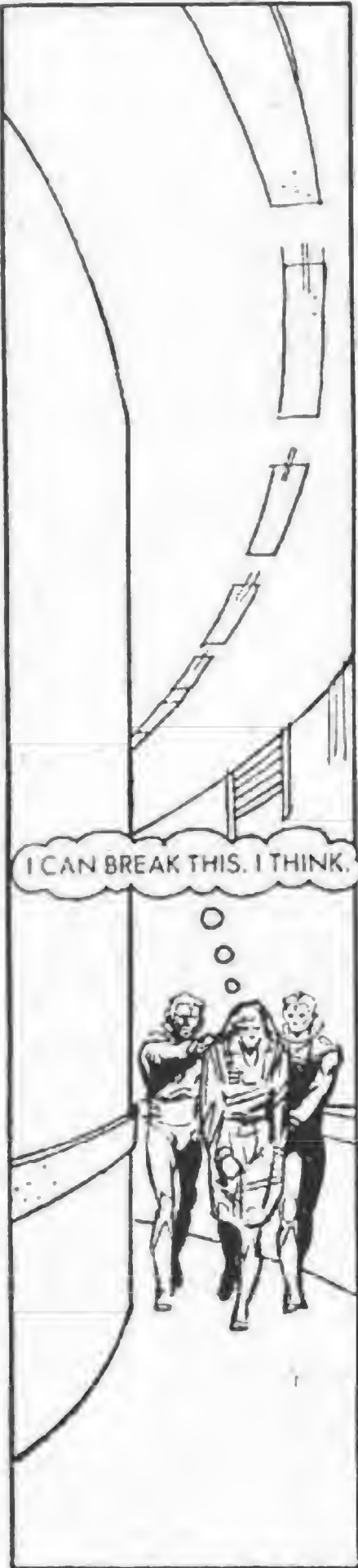


YOU ARE TALLIS THE HUNTER,  
WHO HAS ALREADY DESTROYED  
TWO MEMBERS OF THE GROUP  
OF THREE! YOUR HUNT IS OVER.  
DEATH IS YOUR REWARD.









THE GUARDS POSED LITTLE PROBLEM.



THE MASK IS ALMOST CERTAINLY INVULNERABLE IN HIS OWN PALACE. I'D BETTER TRY TO GET TO MY SCOUTSHIP. I COULD USE SOME HELP ON THIS!





PERHAPS ORTO WILL HAVE AN  
IDEA WHERE MY SCOUTSHIP IS.

MUCH LATER HE ARRIVED IN A DESERTED VILLAGE.



THERE'S NOBODY HERE.  
WHERE COULD ORTO BE?





THE MASK GAVE ORDERS—

IF YOU SEE TALLIS, LET HIM PASS.  
THIS IS MY HUNT AND I WANT TO  
ENJOY THE KILL MYSELF. COME ONLY  
IF I CALL YOU.



WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?



THE MASK UNMASKED.

ORTO!



NOW, MASK—

WHAT—





HART AND ORTO STRUGGLED  
FOR THE BLASTER!



YOU FOOL! I—

IT'S GONE OFF!

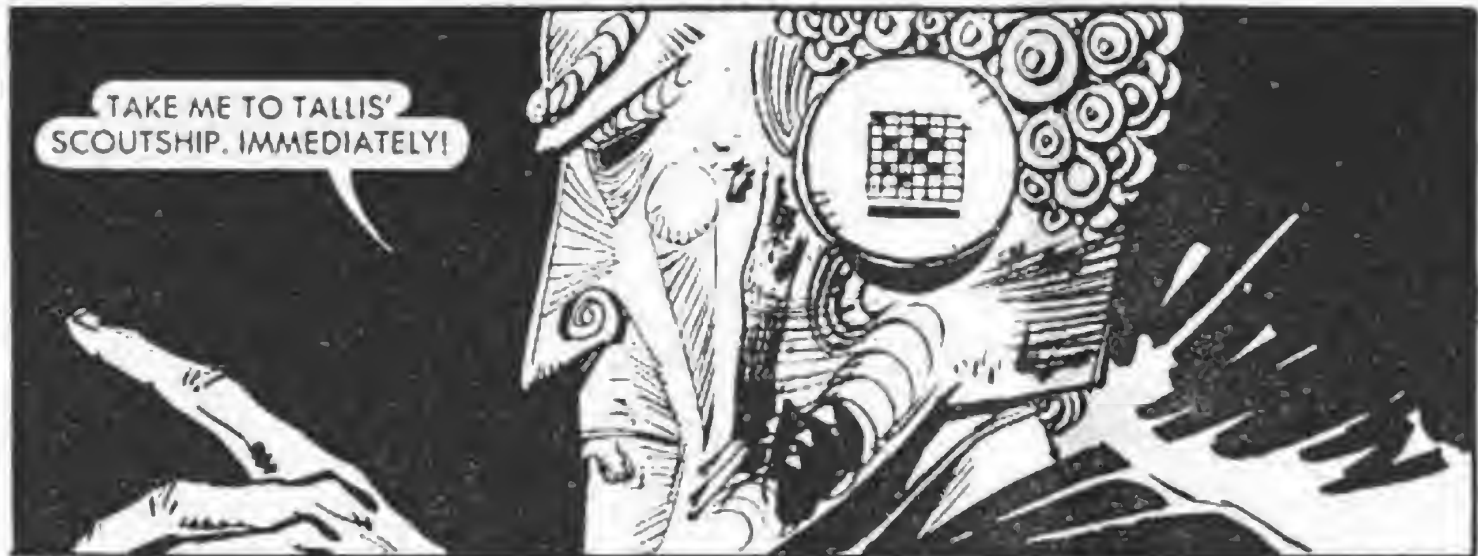
THE GROUP OF  
THREE IS NO MORE,  
BUT THOSE GUARDS  
ARE STILL OUTSIDE.



FORGET THE HUNT. THERE  
IS MUCH TO BE DONE.

AS THE MASKED ONE COMMANDS.







HART REPORTED BACK TO THE GALACTIC SECURITY SERVICE HQ.

A GOOD JOB, WELL DONE, TALLIS.

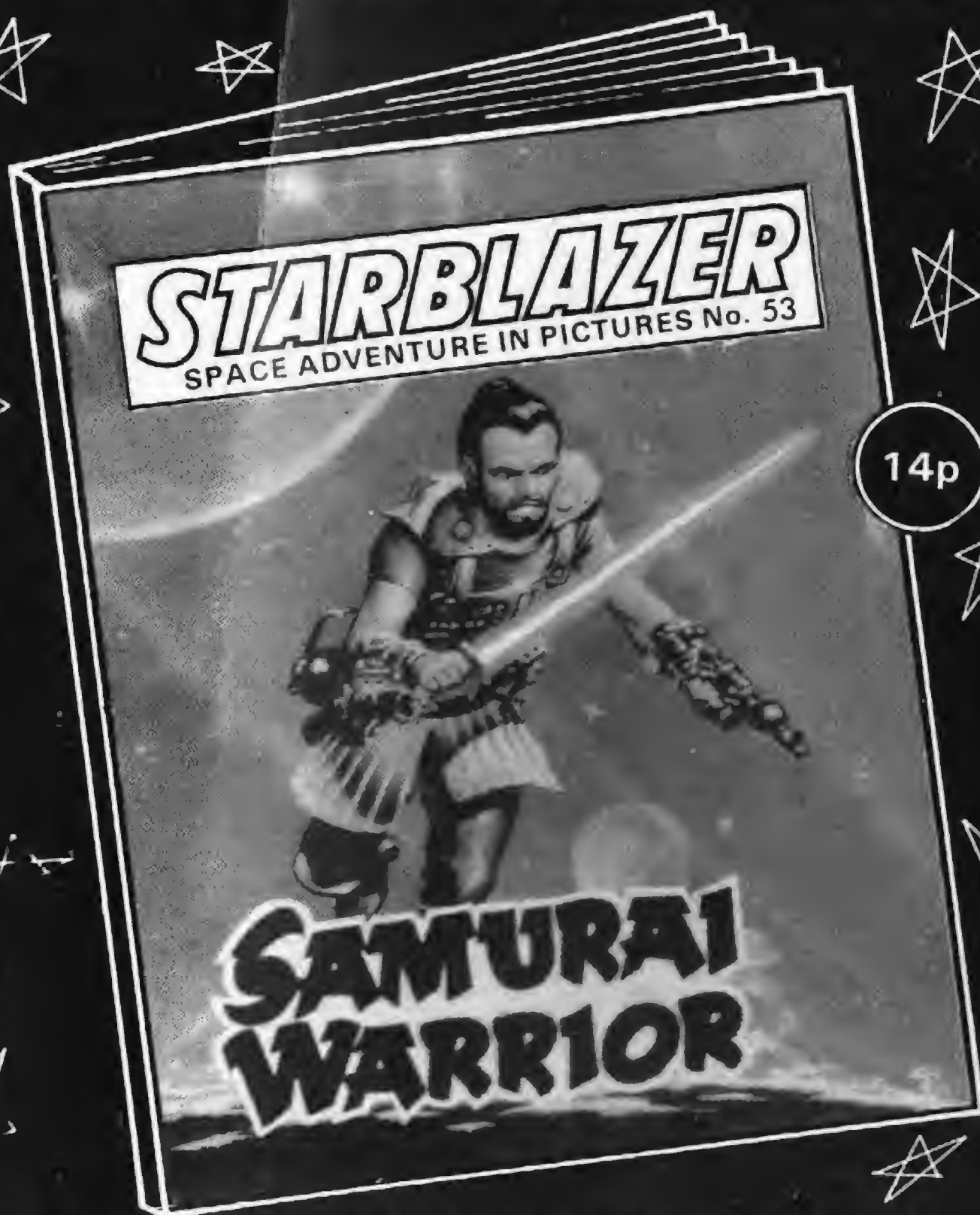
THANK YOU, SIR.



... YOU ARE NOW THE LAW—JUDGE,  
JURY, AND OFTEN EXECUTIONER. TEMPER  
YOUR POWERS WITH JUSTICE, TALLIS,  
AND GO OUT INTO THAT GREAT, BLACK,  
EVIL UNIVERSE TO MAKE IT A BETTER  
PLACE.



# IT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD



14p

## SAMURAI WARRIOR

### THIS MONTH'S OTHER ACTION- PACKED STORY—NOW ON SALE



# STARBLAZERS 1 EARTH SATELLITES

(for persons)

The first in a series of meteorological satellites, Tiros 1, was launched in April 1960. Illustrated is one of the latest, Tiros N. These satellites provide continuous day and night weather pictures and information of temperatures and humidity changes. It is part of a world-wide study of weather patterns. Launched by America.